

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 05103 161653Z

73

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/057 W

----- 121034

R 161615Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5308

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 5103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, PINTUF

SUBJECT: STUDENT STRIKE IN NIGER

SUMMARY: NIGER'S TWO LEADING LYCEES HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR FOLLOWING WEEK-LONG STUDENT STRIKE. ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS AFFECTED BY GOVERNMENT DECISION TO CRACK DOWN ON WHAT MAY PROVE TO BE MOST SIGNIFICANT EXAMPLE OF STUDENT UNREST SINCE MILITARY SEIZED POWER IN 1974. END SUMMARY

1. TROUBLE STARTED WITH 3000 CFA BOOK DEPOSIT INSTITUTED AT ISSA KOROMBE, NIAMEY'S FORMER CLASSICAL LYCEE. IN PROTEST AT ARBITRARILY HIGH LEVY, ADVANCED STUDENTS BEGAN BOYCOTTING CLASSES AND PLACING OTHER DEMANDS ON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION. SISTER SCHOOL, LYCEE KJESAI, JOINED SYMPATHY STRIKE NOVEMBER 10. DEMANDS SWELLED TO INCLUDE CALLS FOR DISMISSAL OF TWO ALLEGEDLY RACIST PROFESSORS, END TO WRITTEN DICTATIONS, AND SECOND CHANCE TO TAKE BACCULARUEAT FOR THOSE WHO FAIL.

2. ON NOVEMBER 11, VOIX DU SAHEL RADIO CARRIED MESSAGE FROM MINISTER OF EDUCATION AROUNA PUTTING HIS AND GON'S PRESTIGE ON LINE AND ORDERING STUDENTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 05103 161653Z

TO RETURN TO CLASSES UNDER THREAT OF SUSPENSION. THIS

APPARENTLY AGGREGATED SITUATION AS TWO ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS AND THREE OF FIVE GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS JOINED IN SYMPATHY STRIKE. GOVERNMENT THEN ANNOUNCED THAT LYCEES ISSA KOROMBE AND KASSAI CLOSED FOR ACADEMIC YEAR. RESIDENT STUDENTS OF BOTH SCHOOLS BEGAN RETURNING TO HOME VILLAGES IN ARMY TRUCKS OVER THE WEEKEND.

3. AT SAME TIME, MANY STRIKING STUDENTS RETURNED TO CLASSES BY GOVERNMENT'S DEADLINE OF NOVEMBER 12, BUT MANY NIGERIEN STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF NIAMEY HAVE CONTINUED TO BOYCOTT CLASSES SINCE NOVEMBER 15 AND THERE ARE REPORTS THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRACTS ARE NOW MAKING THE ROUNDS.

COMMENT: THE MILITARY'S DRACONIAN CLOSURE OF TWO LYCEES APPEARS TO HAVE SERVED ITS IMMEDIATE PURPOSE IN PREVENTING WIDENING OF STUDENT PROTESTS. OVERALL, STRIKING STUDENTS WERE IN MINORITY AND MOST OF THESE HAD RETURNED TO CLASSES WHEN ARMY UNITS SURROUNDED SCHOOLS. NEVERTHELESS, GOVERNMENT'S ACTION WIDELY PERCEIVED AS ARBITRARY AND ALMOST PANICKY AND GON NOW FACES PROBLEM OF WHETHER TO STICK TO ITS GUNS OR RELENT AFTER A FEW WEEKS AND ALLOW TWO LYCEES AFFECTED TO REOPEN. LEAVING SOME THOUSAND DISSATISFIED STUDENTS AND UNEMPLOYED PROFESSORS TO THEIR OWN DEVICES COULD LEAD TO FURTHER UNREST. DAVISON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, UNIVERSITIES, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NIAMEY05103
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760427-1146
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761142/aaaabkka.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <28 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT STRIKE IN NIGER SUMMARY: NIGER'S TWO LEADING LYCEES HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR FOLLOWING WEEK-LONG STUDENT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006